

Department of Permits and Development Management
111 West Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

In the Matter of

Civil Citation No. 77372

Robert E. Stokes Sr.

18 Garobe Court

Respondent

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
FINAL ORDER OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICER

This matter came before the Baltimore County Code Enforcement Hearing Officer on June 16, 2010, for a Hearing on a citation for violations of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR) section 428, failure to cease outside storage of an unlicensed motor vehicle on residential property zoned DR 5.5 known as 18 Garobe Court, 21207.

On May 26, 2010, pursuant to § 3-6-205, Baltimore County Code, Inspector Jeffrey Radcliffe issued a Code Enforcement & Inspections Citation. The citation was sent to the Respondent by 1st class mail to the last known address listed in the Maryland State Tax Assessment files.

The citation proposed a civil penalty of \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars).

The Respondent failed to request a Code Enforcement Hearing and/or failed to appear after requesting a Hearing. Baltimore County Code, § 3-6-205(d) provides that in case of failure to request a Code Enforcement Hearing or if the violator (Respondent) fails to appear after requesting a Hearing then the citation and the civil penalty, shall be the Final Order of the Code Official not subject to appeal.

After proper consideration of all the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer finds:

A. A Correction Notice was issued on May 10, 2010 for removal of untagged/inoperative motor vehicle, remove junk, trash and debris, cut and remove tall grass and weeds. This Citation was issued on May 26, 2010.

B. Photographs in the file show a red Volkswagen sedan with no license plate parked outside in the driveway. County zoning regulations prohibit the outside storage of inoperative motor vehicles on a residential lot. BCZR Section 428.1(A). The outside storage of unlicensed motor vehicles is also prohibited, except for one vehicle per dwelling unit for a period not exceeding 15 days in any calendar year. Section 428.1(B). Respondent has exceeded this limitation. Respondent must put valid tags on the vehicle and make it operable, or remove it from the property.

C. Because compliance is the goal of code enforcement, the civil penalty will be rescinded if the violation is corrected within the time provided below. If the violation is not corrected, the full civil penalty shall be imposed, Respondent will be subject to additional Citation, and the County will be authorized to remove the untagged vehicle, at Respondent's expense.

IT IS ORDERED by the Code Enforcement Hearing Officer that a civil penalty be imposed in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the civil penalty will be RESCINDED and reduced to zero dollars if the violation is corrected by August 2, 2010.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that after August 2, 2010, the County may enter the property for the purpose of removing the untagged vehicle, at Respondent's expense.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if not paid within thirty days of billing, the civil penalty AND any expenses incurred by Baltimore County, as authorized above, shall be imposed and placed as a lien upon the property.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County inspect the property to determine whether the violations have been corrected.

ORDERED this 21st day of June 2010

Signed: ORIGINAL SIGNED
Margaret Z. Ferguson
Baltimore County Hearing Officer